WARDEN MESSAGE

December 03, 2009

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This message is intended for the American community in Syria. If you have any questions, please contact the Consular Section at the above address. If you wish to be added to our e-mail distribution, we invite you to complete the registration process through our new registration website. To access the site please enter the following link address http://travel.state.gov or directly, at https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs.

WARDENS: Transmission of the following announcement by telephone is mandatory.

EXPLOSION IN SYEDA ZAINAB

According to local news agencies, shortly before 10:30am local time on December 03, an explosion occurred on a bus in Syeda Zainab, a suburb of Damascus. The security services have cordoned off the district, casualties have been reported, and American citizens are strongly advised to avoid this area until further notice. The U.S. Embassy is unaware of any additional threat to American Citizens in Syria resulting from this incident but will continue to monitor the situation.

For the latest security information, Americans living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs Internet website at http://travel.state.gov, where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, including the Travel Warning for Syria, as well as the Country Specific Information for Syria can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy in Damascus can be reached 24 hours a day at 963-11-3391-4444; the fax number is 963-11-3391-3999. The Embassy's web site, which includes consular information and the most recent messages to the American community in Damascus, is at http://damascus.usembassy.gov.